NORTH CAROLINA
Reserve
Farm Report
COOPERATIVE CROP REPORTING SERVICE

QUESTIONS PERTINENT TO THIS ISSUE

1. How do January 1 stocks of corn, wheat and oats on farms this year compare with last year?
2. Did 1951 egg production in North Carolina exceed 1950?
3. How many layers were on N. C. farms during December?
4. How many acres of Irish potatoes have commercial growers indicated they will plant this year?
5. Discuss broiler operations in the Chatham-Wilkes areas during 1951.
6. Give the December milk production for North Carolina.
7. Compare 1952 soybean stocks on farms with last year.
8. Discuss recent trends in land values.

No. 101 Raleigh, N. C. January 15, 1952

JANUARY 1, 1952 GENERAL FARM REPORT

GENERAL SITUATION

Rainfall during December was adequate to excessive in all sections of the State. As of January 1, soil moisture conditions ranged from satisfactory to too wet in practically all sections of the State. Temperatures were quite variable during the month, ranging from periods of unseasonably warm temperatures to periods of extreme cold. Around January 1 temperatures were unseasonably warm in most sections.

The condition of small grain crops on January 1 ranged from generally fair in western portions to generally good in eastern areas. Some fields of small grains showed the effects of freezing temperatures although there is no evidence of permanent damage. In general the cold weather has had a beneficial influence on small grains by hardening the plants and preventing excessive growth.

Pastures have not fully recovered from the effects of the extended dry summer and in most areas are, at best, in only poor to fair condition. The severe drouth delayed planting of fall-sown pastures.

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SOYBEAN STOCKS HIGH

Stocks of soybeans on farms in North Carolina as of January 1, 1952 totaled 1,683,000 bushels. This is 34 percent of production from the 1951 crop which amounted to 4,950,000 bushels. Current stocks compare with the 1943-50 average of 1,505,000 bushels on farms January 1.

Heavy sales of the 1951 crop came about early in the season due to favorable weather conditions which allowed early completion of harvesting operations and to favable prices farmers were receiving.

Stocks of soybeans in the Nation on January 1, 1952 totaled over 103 million bushels compared to almost 102 million bushels last year, a slight increase over last year.

DECEMBER MILK PRODUCTION SETS RECORD

Production of milk on North Carolina farms totaled 129 million pounds during December, the highest production of record for the month. However, reflecting the usual trend in production for this time of the year, the quantity produced in December was slightly below that of November which amounted to 131 million pounds. During December 1950, 127 million pounds were produced in the State, while the 10-year average for December is 109 million pounds.

National production during December 1951, at 8.4 billion pounds, held close to the 10-year December average of 8.3 billion pounds.

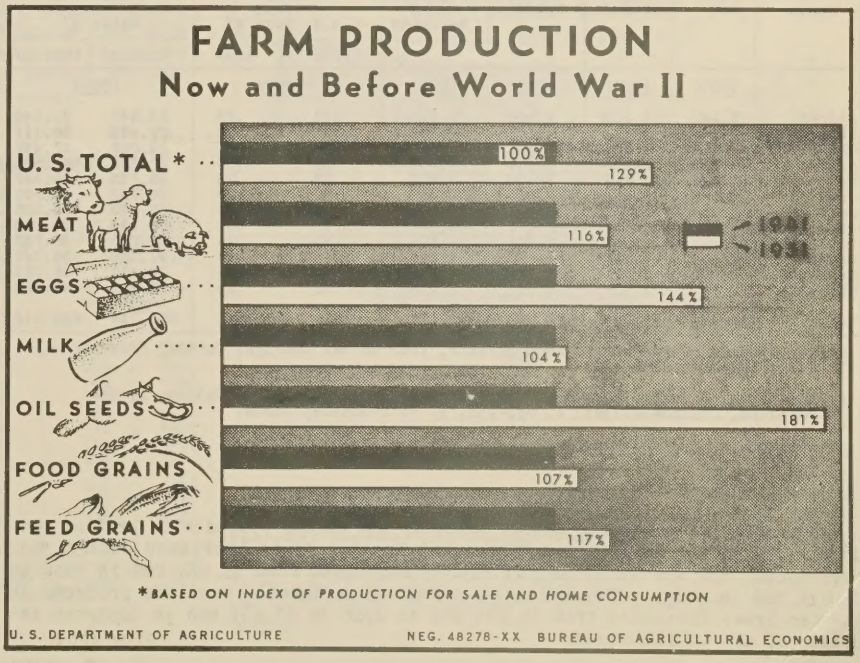
The 1951 U. S. potato crop, valued at 497 million dollars, 27 percent higher than the value of the 1950 crop.

CORN AND RYE STOCKS DOWN WHEAT, OATS AND BARLEY UP

Stocks of corn on North Carolina farms as of January 1, 1952 were down 8.5 percent from a year earlier. The decrease is almost the same percentagewise as the drop in 1951 production from the 1950 level. The 44,416,000 bushels of corn on farms in the State January 1, 1952 compares with 48,538,000 bushels held on the same date in 1950 and the 1941-50 average of 41,368,000 bushels. Growers indicated on January 1 that most of the 1951 corn crop had been harvested.

Wheat stocks on farms totalled 3,155,000 bushels on January 1 - up 146 percent from the 1,282,000 bushels held on Tar Heel farms January 1, 1951, and were 46 percent above the 10-year average for January 1 storage. The 1951 wheat crop was

(Continued on Page 2)



JANUARY 1 FARM STOCKS OF GRAINS

CROP	NORTH CAROLINA			UNITED STATES		
	AVERAGE 1941-50	1951	1952	AVERAGE 1941-50	1951	1952
	THOUSAND BUSHELS					
CORN....	41,368	48,538	44,416	2,050,791	2,106,698	1,919,269
WHEAT...	2,156	1,282	3,155	377,730	335,439	339,336
OATS....	3,088	4,090	4,995	821,294	879,673	841,889
BARLEY..	246	250	491	150,315	139,780	124,287
RYE.....	78	36	27	13,145	6,779	6,493

1952 OUTLOOK FAVORABLE

The assets of agriculture will have a higher value at the beginning of 1952 than on January 1, 1951, when they amounted to 143 billion dollars. This will result from a higher level of prices and the further expansion of physical inventories during 1951. The rise in the value of farm land in 1951 may not be quite as large as in 1950 but it will be substantial. The aggregate value of livestock is expected to be higher, mainly because of increased numbers.

Stocks of some of the grain crops will probably be lower on January 1, 1952 than a year earlier but prices will be higher. As the result of heavy purchases during 1951, inventories of farm machinery, automobiles, and household furnishings will be greater at the beginning of 1952 than at the beginning of 1951. Little change in the liquid financial reserves of farmers is indicated for 1951.

The indicated large growth in the value of assets of agriculture will not all be a net gain to farmers. Farm real estate debt will probably show an increase in 1951, as it did in 1950. A further large expansion in non-real-estate debt will also offset some of the rise in the value of assets. Nevertheless, by January 1, 1952, the equities held by the various owners of agriculture will probably be significantly greater than on January 1, 1951.

The realized net income of farm operators is expected to be about the same in 1952 as in 1951, or about 15 billion dollars. Both cash receipts and expenses have been higher in 1951 than in 1950. Realized net income is likely to be about 18 percent higher than in 1950 and 11 percent higher than in 1949, but approximately 5 percent lower than in 1948 and 12 percent lower than in 1947.

BROILER OPERATIONS IN THE CHATHAM-WILKES AND THE 7 PRINCIPAL COMMERCIAL BROILER AREAS, BY MONTHS, 1951

MONTH	CHATHAM-WILKES AREA, 1951						PLACEMENTS IN 7 PRINCIPAL COMMERCIAL BROILER AREAS b/	
	EGGS SET	CHICKS HATCHED	CHICKS PLACED	ESTIMATED MARKET BROILERS	BROILER PRICES F.O.B. FARM a/			
					1950	1951	1950 c/	1951 d/
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	CENTS		(000)	
JANUARY	2,447	1,603	1,380	1,510	.21	.25	24,647	30,842
FEBRUARY	2,742	2,014	1,817	1,390	.24	.28	26,483	36,111
MARCH	3,621	2,726	2,542	1,520	.30	.30	32,808	47,456
APRIL	2,824	2,250	2,155	1,505	.36	.30	37,696	40,589
MAY	2,625	2,156	2,154	1,823	.25	.29	28,125	40,047
JUNE	3,119	2,466	2,857	2,419	.26	.29	28,892	48,790
JULY	2,214	1,741	2,199	1,957	.36	.29	36,233	36,206
AUGUST	2,043	1,542	1,916	2,044	.30	.30	28,713	33,013
SEPTEMBER	2,461	1,823	2,328	2,621	.30	.29	36,090	30,753
OCTOBER	2,063	1,486	1,688	1,860	.26	.26	27,066	29,447
NOVEMBER	2,230	1,671	1,707	1,672	.24	.26	26,491	38,781
DECEMBER	2,924	2,107	2,301	2,106	.22	.25	36,502	42,983
TOTAL	31,313	23,585	25,044	22,427	.28	.28	369,746	455,018

a/ *From Federal-State Market News Service, four market average: Durham, Greensboro, Siler City and Raleigh.*

b/ *East Conn. Delaware,Maryland, Virginia-West Va. - Shenandoah Valley, North Carolina, Chatham-Wilkes, W. Georgia, N. W. Arkansas, Texas.*

c/ *Revised.* d/ *Preliminary.*

BROILER OPERATIONS INCREASE

The number of eggs set, chicks hatched, and chicks placed with broiler producers in the Chatham-Wilkes Commercial Broiler Areas increased during 1951 over 1950. The number of chicks placed increased from 21,058,000 in 1950 to 25,044,000 in 1951. The estimated number of marketable broilers produced in the two areas increased from 18,571,000 in 1950 to 22,427,000 in 1951, an increase of almost 21 percent.

GRAIN STOCKS *(Continued)*

the largest of record for the State, exceeding the 1950 crop by 64 percent. The 4,995,000 bushels of oats in farm storage on January 1 compares with 4,090,000 bushels held on farms a year earlier and represent a 62 percent increase over the 10-year average farm stocks for that date. The 1951 oats crop was also the largest of record for North Carolina.

Farm stocks of barley also showed a sharp increase from 1951. The 491,000 bushels on farms on January 1 compares with 250,000 bushels a year ago and the average of 246,000 bushels.

Rye stocks totalled 27,000 bushels on January 1. This is a decline of 25 percent from the January 1951 total of 36,000 bushels and 246 percent from the 10-year average.

DECEMBER EGG PRODUCTION UP FROM LAST YEAR

Egg production in North Carolina for the month of December is estimated at 51 million eggs or 2 million less than November production. Egg production during December 1950 totaled 48 million eggs or 9.4 percent below December 1951.

Total egg production in North Carolina during the 1951 calendar year was 45 million eggs less than the total production for the 1950 calendar year.

There were 7,887,000,000 layers on North Carolina farms during December 1951 as compared with 7,882,000,000 layers during December of 1950 -- an increase of only 5,000 layers.

The rate of lay was greater in December 1951 than in December 1950. The number of eggs laid per 100 layers averaged 651 in December of 1951 as compared with 611 in December of 1950. Weather conditions during December 1951 were more favorable for egg production than December of 1950. A few short periods of cold weather were experienced but these did not materially affect laying flocks.

For the entire year of 1951 U. S. egg production totaled 60,321,000,000 eggs, a record high production but only slightly higher than 1950.

The rise in prices of feed concentrates this fall and winter has reflected the generally strong demand and smaller supplies. Feed shortages in drought areas of the southwest and smaller marketings of good quality corn also have helped boost prices. Prices of feed grains in mid-December averaged 16 percent higher than a year earlier.

NO CHANGE EXPECTED IN N. C. COMMERCIAL POTATO PLANTINGS

North Carolina growers indicated early this month that they intend to plant the same acreage to commercial early Irish potatoes this year as they planted in 1951. If growers carry out their intentions, 18,500 acres of commercial early potatoes will be grown in the State this year. A crop of this size would be 42 percent less than the 1941-50 average of 32,100 acres.

Growers cut acreage sharply last year due to the absence of a Government support price. Again this year there will be no support for potato prices and growers are endeavoring to hold production in line with market demand. Seed prices are quite high this year, and other production costs are expected to be above the 1951 level.

In the Late Spring group of states which includes North Carolina, growers indicated they plan to increase their acreage 10 percent over last year. If these intentions materialize, the commercial early acreage in the 12 states will total 126,600 compared with 114,600 acres harvested in 1951 and the 10-year average of 173,690 acres.

The 126,000 acres of late spring potatoes indicated by growers' planting intentions is 10 percent larger than the acreage harvested in 1951 but is 27 percent below average.

Changes from last year's harvested acreage range from an increase of 22 percent in California to a reduction of 30 percent in Louisiana. Increases of about one-tenth are in prospect for Alabama, South Carolina, Arizona, and Oklahoma. Growers in Tennessee are expected to maintain last year's acreage.

Only a slight reduction is expected in Texas' late spring crop. Reduction of 11, 14, and 17 percent, respectively, are indicated by planting intention reports for Arkansas, Georgia, and Mississippi.

A commercial early Irish potato crop for winter harvest in Texas and Florida of 2,708,000 bushels is indicated by January 1 condition. This prospective crop is 24 percent larger than the 2,184,000 bushels harvested in 1951 and 47 percent above average.

The winter crop now in prospect has been exceeded only by the record large crop of 2,795,000 bushels harvested in 1945. Even though there was some increase in the Texas acreage this year, the 500 acres for harvest in this State are only about two-fifths of average.

Acreage was increased sharply in Florida this year and the 10,500 acres for harvest in 1952 are 5 percent above average. In Florida, yields per acre about in line with the excellent yields of each of the three past years are in prospect. Plants have made good top growth but additional moisture is needed in some areas.

COMMERCIAL EARLY IRISH POTATOES INTENDED PLANTINGS FOR 1952 WITH COMPARISONS

STATE	ACREAGE			INTENDED ACRES AS PERCENT OF 1951	YIELD PER ACRE	
	1941-50 Av. 1/	1951	1952 INTENDED		1941-50 Av. 1/	1951
	-ACRES-				-BUSHELS-	
LATE SPRING:						
N. CAROLINA.	32,100	18,500	18,500	100	171	210
CALIFORNIA..	62,700	49,000	60,000	122	368	445
LOUISIANA...	17,930	5,000	3,500	70	68	70
MISSISSIPPI.	2,950	600	500	83	89	80
ALABAMA.....	22,320	21,200	23,300	110	123	170
GEORGIA.....	2,140	700	600	86	110	145
S. CAROLINA.	12,000	7,500	8,000	107	135	200
ARIZONA.....	2/4,160	3,200	3,500	109	2/346	420
TEXAS.....	6,460	3,500	3,400	97	70	70
OKLAHOMA....	2,520	800	900	112	105	145
ARKANSAS....	4,940	1,900	1,700	89	90	85
TENNESSEE...	4,720	2,700	2,700	100	116	95
GROUP TOTAL.	173,690	114,600	126,600	110	220	292

1/ For group totals and for all States, averages of annual totals, not the sum of the State or group averages.

2/ Short-time average: 7-year, 1944-50.

FARM REAL ESTATE: INDEX NUMBERS OF AVERAGE VALUE PER ACRE, BY SELECTED STATES NOVEMBER 1951 WITH COMPARISONS 1/

(1912-14=100)

STATE AND DIVISION	1930	1940	1949	1950		1951		
				MARCH	NOVEMBER	MARCH	JULY	NOV. 2/
N. CAROLINA	158	138	341	344	355	380	403 3/	410
S. CAROLINA	104	89	224	204	210	225	236 3/	241
VIRGINIA...	134	112	246	235	239	267	283	288
DELAWARE...	111	89	163	158	167	171	178	183
MARYLAND...	123	100	206	200	214	220	228	234
GEORGIA....	100	82	195	182	188	200	212	216
FLORIDA....	172	133	206	210	241	252	263	270
S. ATLANTIC	128	107	236	228	237	255	268	273
U. S...	115	84	175	169	179	193	202	206

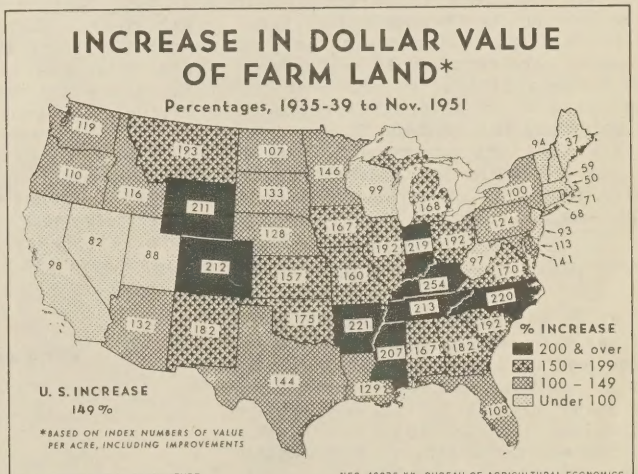
1/ All farm lands with improvements as of March 1, except as indicated.
2/ Figures for November 1951 are preliminary.
3/ Revised.

NORTH CAROLINA FARM REAL ESTATE VALUES CONTINUE TO INCREASE

Farm real estate values in North Carolina continued to increase during 1951. The index (1912-14=100) of the average value of real estate per acre was 410 on November 1, 1951 as compared with 355 on November 1, 1950. Hence, the index on November 1, 1951 was 15.5 percent higher than a year earlier and 20.2 percent higher than the 1949 annual index of 341.

The index of 410 for North Carolina on November 1 was the highest of any state. Kentucky with an index of 344 was second and Alabama with 313 was third. South Dakota with an index of 121 and Nevada with 124 were the two lowest states. The November 1, 1951 index for nearby states was as follows: Virginia 288; South Carolina 241; Georgia 216; and Tennessee 310.

By regions the East South Central States with 321 had the highest index and the South Atlantic States with 273 were second high.



Average prices received by poultrymen in 1952 are expected to hold fairly close to the '51 levels. As in the past several years, the outstanding feature of next year's poultry outlook is the prospect for large production. Also in 1952, as in most other postwar years, the outlook points to continued strong demand for the large output.

FARM REPORT

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GENERAL SITUATION *(Continued)*

Indications are that on an average 95 percent of the State's corn crop had been harvested by January 1 although in some localities of the heavier corn producing areas as much as 20 to 25 percent still remains to be gathered.

Practically all of the State's cotton, soybeans and lespedeza seed crops had been gathered by January 1. Peanut threshing is well advanced. However, wet weather has delayed completion of this operation in northeastern counties and some threshing still remains to be done.

Dry weather during the past summer has resulted in shortages of hay and roughage feeds throughout the Piedmont and Mountain districts. Generally ample supplies of hay and roughage are reported to be on farms in eastern districts. However, in no areas do we have any reports of surplus hay and roughage feeds. Feed grain supplies are reported to be generally ample in all areas with surpluses existing in some Piedmont and Coastal sections.

FARM HAY STOCKS DOWN

It is estimated that 760,000 tons of hay were stocked on farms in North Carolina on January 1, 1952. This is a 7 percent decrease from stocks on farms January 1, 1951 and 9 percent less than the 1941-50 average.

Dry weather which was responsible for a smaller crop of hay and poor pasture conditions account largely for current stocks being lower than a year ago.

With the aid of the improved pastures which were not permanently damaged by dry weather last fall, farm supplies both in the State and the Nation should be adequate to take care of the needs until the new crops come into production.

GENERAL WEATHER SUMMARY FOR DECEMBER, 1951

During the first ten days of December the movement of weather systems across the southeastern United States was sluggish, and the general weather pattern summer-like in character. After that winter-type weather set in, characterized by the rapid passage of low pressure storms to the north of North Carolina, with cold weather fronts crossing the State at frequent intervals. Considerable amounts of cloudiness accompanied both weather regimes, and the sun was visible scarcely half of the daylight hours.

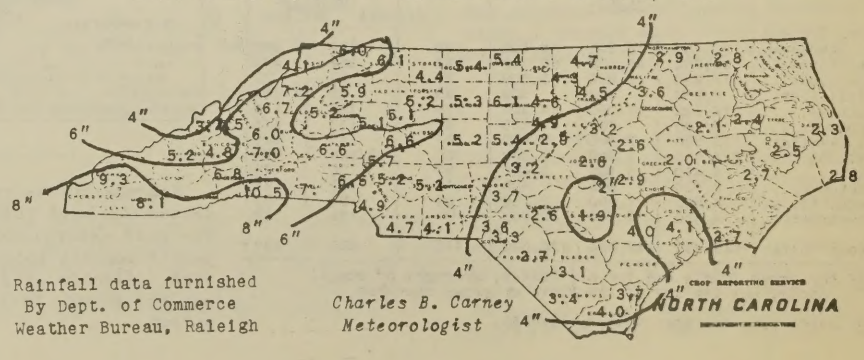
Over North Carolina as a whole, it was a mild month terminating a mild year. 1951 brought no severe storms of more than local extent, and no extensive flood damage to the State. A rather general condition of drought was the main bad feature of the weather.

Temperatures: Temperatures in North Carolina during December varied from unseasonably warm to moderately cold. The first ten days were warm, averaging fifteen degrees above the usual for the season; the seasonably cold weather set in, dropping about mid-month to fifteen or more degrees colder than the average for mid-December. The remainder of the month was seasonable, except for the final two days, which warmed again to spring-like temperatures.

On an average, December was about two degrees warmer than is usual for the final month of the year. This was in line with the rest of 1951, which was a warm year throughout.

Precipitation: December rainfall in North Carolina averaged a little above the usual for the season, most parts of the State getting a total of four or five inches. There were pretty general rains about the third or fourth, yielding around an inch, and again around the twentieth, giving another one to three inches. Frequent smaller rains occurring during the month accounted for the remainder of the total. Small amounts of snow or sleet fell once or twice in the western part of the State, but little accumulated on the ground outside the mountains.

NORTH CAROLINA-INCHES OF RAINFALL DURING DECEMBER, 1951



Rainfall data furnished
By Dept. of Commerce
Weather Bureau, Raleigh

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